

**State Board of Education
Briefing Paper
Private School Annual Approval**

Issue/Definition: “Approved private school” means a nonpublic school or nonpublic school district conducting a program consisting of kindergarten and at least grade one, or a program consisting of any or all of grades one through twelve which has been approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) in accordance with the minimum standards for approval as prescribed in rule. Each spring, the chief administrators of private schools seek SBE approval for the following school year. This process includes filing a State Standards Certificate of Compliance with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The request for annual approval must be received electronically by a specified date in June.

RCW/WAC Cites: RCW 28A.195.040, WAC 180-90 Chapter

State Board of Education Role: By law the SBE is the designated agency with authority to grant private school approval. The approval validates that the school has met the state standards of compliance. Private school approval is a prerequisite to SBE accreditation status.

OSPI Role: OSPI staff review the certificate and, if appropriate, forward a recommendation for approval to the SBE. If approved, the SBE then sends a letter of approval to the school following action at a SBE meeting.

Effect on School Districts: Private schools which are approved, and nonprofit, are generally eligible to participate in federal programs through the public school in the area in which they are located. Schools are required to contact each approved private school regarding their interest in participation, and involve them in the program implementation. In addition, students from approved private schools are eligible to access courses and ancillary services from the local school (i.e., advanced math, counseling, and special education) and are claimed by the public school as part time enrollment.)

Recommendation from SBE Staff: Staff recommends SBE continue the process for private school annual approval.

Pat Eirish
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